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TO: GACarver, Jr.

FROM: DCI/SAVA

REF: 12Aug69 # 097/C/SAVA ADDED 1100 13 AUG 69 PER SAVA/5/3

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(*Saigon Post story of 12 August highlights
press interview of attorney George Gregory.)

1. STORIES BASED ON STATEMENTS BY GEORGE GREGORY (MAJOR MIDDLETON'S CIVILIAN LAWYER) APPEAR ON FRONT PAGE OF 12 AUGUST NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST. STORIES ALSO BEING CARRIED ON AP AND UPI WIRES. NOTHING WE HAVE YET SEEN GIVES FULL TEXT OF GREGORY STATEMENTS, BUT STORIES ALL CONSISTENT IN HOLDING THAT GREGORY MADE THE FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS:

A. VICTIM (I.E., CHUYEN, WHOSE NAME NOT MENTIONED) WAS DOUBLE AGENT EMPLOYED BY BOTH CIA AND NORTH VIETNAM. CLEAR IMPLICATION OF STATEMENTS IS THAT HE WAS NOT SPECIAL FORCES AGENT, THOUGH THIS EXPLICITLY STATED. BOTH TIMES AND POST QUOTE PORTIONS OF FOLLOWING GREGORY COMMENT (STITCHED TOGETHER FROM THESE OVERLAPPING PARTIAL QUOTATIONS): "IF IT IS PROVEN THAT

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SOMEONE REACHED HIS DEMISE (IN THIS CASE) I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND THAT ... (HE) WILL BE A DANGEROUS COMMUNIST DOUBLE AGENT HIRED BY THE BEST FINANCED AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES, THE CIA. LET'S PUT THE FINGER RIGHT WHERE IT SHOULD BE -- TO GATHER FACTS. THE AGENT WAS WORKING FOR THE CIA WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED -- THANK GOD IT WAS DISCOVERED SO THAT THE LIVES OF AGENTS AND FIGHTING PEOPLE COULD BE SAVED -- THAT HE WAS NOT REALLY IN THE EMPLOY OF OUR FORCES BUT IN THE EMPLOY OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE."

B. NEW YORK TIMES PLAYS UP CHARGE THAT AGENT LIQUIDATED ON CIA ORDERS (POST DOES NOT PLAY THIS ANGLE). IN SAIGON FILED STORY UNDER TERRENCE SMITH BYLINE, TIMES CLAIMS "AN INFORMED SOURCE IN NHATRANG ... SAID THAT IT WAS THE CIA THAT HAD DIRECTED THAT THE AGENT BE DISPOSED OF." STORY NOTES AGENT'S ALLEGED USE IN INDIGENOUS ROADWATCH TEAM OPERATING ON BOTH SIDES CAMBODIAN BORDER, AND REPORT THAT AGENT BETRAYED ^{TEAM} THEM TO NORTH VIETNAMESE IN LATE MAY OR JUNE. TIMES THEN ADDS: "SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE

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TEAM WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED AND THE SPECIAL FORCES SUBSEQUENTLY TURNED UP INFORMATION SAID TO IMPLICATE THE AGENT. HE WAS THEN REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED BY THE SPECIAL FORCES AND, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, BY THE CIA. THE DECISION WAS THEN SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE TO ELIMINATE THE AGENT. THOUGH THE DECISION WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE CIA, MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL FORCES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT THE ORDER."

C. TIMES SAIGON STORY DOES HAVE BRACKETED (PRESUMABLY NEW YORK) INSERT SAYING "RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT SOURCES" IN WASHINGTON "DENIED THAT THE CIA HAD ANY CONNECTION WHATSOEVER WITH THE CASE. THEY WERE COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT THE CIA HAD BOTH ORDERED THE EXECUTION AND FOR AN UNEXPLAINED REASON HAD REVOKED THE ORDER A FEW DAYS AFTER JUNE 20, THE DAY IT HAD ALREADY BEEN CARRIED OUT."

D. POST PLAYS UP (AS TIMES DOES NOT) GREGORY'S ALLEGATIONS THAT MIDDLETON IS BEING HELD UNJUSTIFIABLY UNDER "SUBHUMAN

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CONDITIONS" AND ALLEGATIONS THAT CHARGES AGAINST MIDDLETON DERIVE FROM "POLITICAL SENSITIVITY AND THE FEAR OUT HIGHEST COMMANDERS HAD." POST STORY, UNDER ROBERT G. KAISER BYLINE, QUOTES GREGORY AS SAYING THAT "BECAUSE OF THE TIMIDITY OF CERTAIN ... EXTREMELY HIGH COMMANDERS, WHO ARE SO AFRAID OF POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS AND WHO ARE SO CONCERNED THAT THEY WILL COME OUT OF THIS THING IN A MANNER WHICH WILL NOT BE FAVORABLE POLITICALLY ... IT BECAME NECESSARY ... TO SACRIFICE THE LIFE, CAREER OF MY CLIENT."

2. REQUEST YOU KEEP US PROMPTLY ADVISED OF ANY NEW CHARGES, ALLEGATIONS OR INUENDOS APPEARING LOCALLY IN SAIGON AND WE WILL RECIPROCATATE FROM HERE.

END OF MESSAGE

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GROUP 1
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